

REMARKS

Claims 3-5 are presented for consideration, with Claims 3 and 4 being independent.

The specification and abstract have been reviewed and amended to correct minor informalities and improve their idiomatic English form.

In the claims, Claim 3 has been placed in independent form, and editorial changes have been made to Claims 3 and 4.

Initially, on the Office Action Summary page, box 10, regarding the drawings, has been checked but it is not indicated whether the drawings were accepted or objected. Applicants will assume the drawings filed on March 15, 2004, were accepted by the Examiner. The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate otherwise if this is not the case.

Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 4 and 5 were allowed. Additionally, Claim 3 was indicated as containing patentable subject matter and would be allowed if placed in independent form. Based on this indication, Claim 3 has been amended to include the features of Claim 1. Accordingly, it is submitted that Claims 3-5 are allowed.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP '891. Without conceding to the propriety of this rejection, Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled. This rejection is therefore deemed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed Japanese documents are also enclosed.

The concise explanations of relevance for the non-English documents are provided by their accompanying English-language abstracts.

The foreign documents were cited in Office Actions of April 25 and July 12, 2005, in a corresponding Japanese patent application. Copies of the Office Actions are enclosed.

Accompanying this paper is a check for \$180.00 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) and §1.17(p).

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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